



## Media Foundation for West Africa

Fondation des Médias pour l'Afrique de  
l'Ouest (MFWA)

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April 05, 2023

**Honourable Godfred Yeboah Dame**  
**Attorney-General and Minister of Justice**  
**Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice**  
**P.O Box MB60, Accra**

Dear Sir,

### **Petition for justice for detained journalist**

The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) brings you warm compliments.

We are writing concerning the plight of journalist Noah Dameh of Radio Ada, based in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana, who, in our view, is being abused by the Police.

Dameh, who is the Deputy Station Coordinator of Radio Ada, was remanded in custody on March 30, until April 13, 2023, after he appeared before the Magistrate Court in Tema.

The case began in May 2022 when Dameh was summoned and briefly detained by the Police, following a complaint by Daniel McKorley (alias McDan) the founder of Electrochem Ghana Limited, a salt mining company at Ada Songor. The complaint was in connection with the journalist's Facebook post in which he accused the police of abusing a young man from Ada at the instance of McKorley.

After a series of police summons and court appearances, the court finally dismissed the case in December 2022 for lack of jurisdiction. However, the police pounced on Dameh and arrested him immediately he got out of the courtroom.

### **Background**

On May 8, 2022 Dameh posted on his Facebook wall a picture of one Benjamin Anim, a native of Ada, who was handcuffed to a hospital bed. The broadcast journalist claimed in that post that the abuse of Anim, who was a patient at a hospital, was at the instance of Daniel McKorley, Chief Executive of ElectroChem Ghana Limited. Mr. McKorley's company is embroiled in a conflict with the youth of the town, who accuse it of snatching their livelihood.

On May 14, 2022, Dameh received a text message to report at the Tema Regional Police Command and assist in investigations into his Facebook allegations. On May 16, 2022, he honoured the invitation by reporting to Sgt Derrick Debrah who informed him that the police had received a defamation complaint from ElectroChem Ghana Limited in connection with the said Facebook post.

Dameh was arraigned by the Tema Police Command on May 24, 2022 and granted bail same day. The Greater Accra Regional Police also put him before court on August 22, 2022 and he was granted bail. As part of bail conditions set by the Tema Magistrate Court, the journalist had to report to the police every other Tuesday.

The Tema Magistrate Court finally dismissed the case in December 2022 for lack of jurisdiction, only for the police to re-arrest Dameh and restart the process.

They made the journalist write a statement and granted him bail with a surety, only to call the case three times, allegedly without notifying the defense. The investigator later went to swear an affidavit to tell the court that the surety had failed the bond to produce the suspect.

On March 30, 2023, the prosecution served notice to the surety ordering him to produce Dameh in court. When the journalist appeared, he was charged with false publication under section 208 of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29), and remanded until April 13, 2023.

### **MFWA'S Appeal**

The MFWA is concerned by the evolution of this case from a defamation complaint, which should have been a civil matter, to criminal prosecution for alleged false publication.

We are also dismayed by the Police's apparent lack of interest in pursuing those who allegedly perpetrated the outrage of chaining a patient to a hospital bed, as opposed to their determined schemes to prosecute the whistleblower.

In view of this, we call on your high office to intervene in the apparent persecution of the journalist. Given that the police are accusing him of false publication, we urge your office to help probe Noah Dameh's claim that the police abused Benjamin Anim. And if the abuse claim is proven

to be true, we demand that the perpetrators are brought to face the law and the charge against the journalist dropped.

We are confident that you will act promptly to address the above concerns and ensure that justice is served and seen to be served in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Sulemana Braimah  
(Executive Director)

**CC:**

- i. The Chief Justice
- ii. The Inspector General of Police
- iii. The Commissioner, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)